WELCOME to our 2nd newsletter for the 2010 year – following our most recent Parent Forum meeting on Monday 3rd of May.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Our Treasurer Nell Dare confirmed the Parent Forum financial Position at 30 April 2010 as $9475.63. This balance is the balance brought forward from last year plus the receipt of some of the money raised through our Skill-a-thon in term 1. This balance will be added to with the final money raised from the skill-a-thon & a decision will be made with respect to how this money is spent this year in due course with new books, maths resources, landscaping & ‘finishing touches’ to the new development (which are not covered by the G’ment Grant – including Air Con) as just a few things to be considered by the Parent Forum and the school. We will keep you informed as the year unfolds.

OVERVIEW OF TERM 2

| APRIL 25      | ANZAC DAY March                  |
| APRIL 28      | Sesquicentenary Mass (Lismore)   |
| APRIL 29/MAY 21 | Zone & Diocesan Cross Country   |
| APRIL 30      | School Photos                    |
| MAY 6 & 7     | Mothers Day Stall & Liturgy      |
| MAY 11,12,13  | NAPLAN Testing (Yrs 3 & 5)       |
| JUNE 6        | Sacramento of First Eucharist    |
| JUNE 16       | Yr 6 Religious Education Test    |
| JUNE 25       | Athletics Carnival               |
| JUNE 28       | Festival of Performing Arts – Primary |
| JUNE 29       | Semester 1 Reports               |
| JULY 1        | Festival of Performing Arts-Infants |
| JULY 2        | Staff Spirituality Day (Pupil Free Day) |

BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS

As you would have seen, the development program is well underway with part of the play ground cordoned off for the extensions to be built. Stokes Wheeler Constructions is the Company who won the tender for the additions/alterations as part of the Government Grant. Their work involves:-

* Building of a new 2 storey GLA building & connecting link
* Alterations to Admin Building (level 2)
* Refurbishment of Existing Library
* Installation of a new lift, shaft & connecting links
* Reconfigure main street entry to provide disabled access.

It is anticipated (weather permitting) that these undertakings will be completed by December – the works program appears to be ‘on time’ at this early stage & ‘fingers crossed’ everything will continue to ‘go to plan’ & completion date will be as anticipated.

SOLAR GRANTS

When you next see Mrs Cheryl Forrester – give her a heartfelt thanks & a pat on the back – as a result of her enthusiasm, energy & drive, she has led us to receive a further Grant through the Government for a $55,000 solar Grant.

This Grant will enable us to have solar panels installed at our school along with compatible ‘energy efficient fluorescent lighting’ through the school. Our school will, with this in place, be able to make its own power which will not only dramatically cut costs for our school but if the power ‘we’ make from the solar panels is more than we consume, we can ‘sell’ that back to the grid & ‘we’ as a school are taking a huge step to making us more green & doing just a little something to help the environment.

This installation is set to take place in July & the installation is not expected to have any impact on the running of the school (the panels will be installed on the roof of the library) so nobody will be inconvenienced & everybody wins!!!

Be sure to pass on YOUR thanks to Mrs Forrester – this is a WONDERFUL achievement which everyone will benefit from for many many years to come.
GIRLS NIGHT OUT

For the last couple of years, the Parent Forum has organised a Social night for the LADIES.
The purpose is simply to allow mums the opportunity of getting together as a group & enjoy a superb meal (for an excellent price) in a lovely restaurant surrounded by fun-loving ladies!!! (All the ingredients you need for a Great Time!) & this year is no exception!!!

We have spoken to the wonderfully talented owner (& ‘Master Chef’) of the Balcony Restaurant, Aaron Wilkinson about having our get-together at ‘his place’ again this year & he has been good enough to oblige.

Aaron will open his restaurant Exclusively for the mums of Mt St Patrick Primary School on:

TUESDAY 25TH OF MAY, 2010 from 7PM
YES, THAT IS NEXT TUESDAY (THERE IS NO TIME TO WASTE, TERM 2 IS TICKING BY!!!)

Tuesday night is not normally a night that Aaron’s Restaurant is open & as such, it is VITAL that we have sufficient numbers to make it ‘worth his while’ to be away from his beautiful wife Sara (& 5 gorgeous children) for the night…

To our ‘more established mums’ with the school, this is a perfect opportunity to contact our ‘newer’ mums & invite them out… & to our ‘new’ mums – we would really LOVE you to come – you WILL have a great night & meet some really lovely ladies!

So, get in touch with a couple of the Girls you ‘know’ from around the school grounds & RSVP back to Kathryn Leslight on 6672 1220.
Due to the Restaurant being closed on Mondays, we need to know numbers no later than Friday 21st of May so that Aaron can organise staff & supplies for the night - so get organised for another great night – the last couple of times have been great fun & you never know, it might be YOU who wins your dinner paid for by the Parent Forum this year!!!

BOY’S SCHOOL UNIFORM

At the first Parent Forum Meeting for the year, it was voted that a long navy ‘pant’ be approved for boys to wear as the winter uniform.
The pants are ‘STUBBIES’ brand & are available for purchase through Work & Country Gear, Murwillumbah for $29.95.
These long pants are NOT compulsory but rather, an option for the boys during the cooler months rather than tracksuit pants.
The ‘new’ long pants can be worn with the school uniform shirt and no jumper needed however if tracksuit pants are worn, the children must wear their jumper with them. (track suit pants are not permitted to be worn without a jumper)

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

As we have all learned in recent weeks, ‘Mad Sports’ is the company who have taken over the Out of Hours School Care at Mt St Patrick.
Some parents at the Forum Meeting had witnessed first hand Mad Sports in action in the afternoons & had great praise for the program they run for the children. Some have expressed concern at the cost of the program as it is more than that which the school was charging when the school were operating the out of school care. On conducting our own investigations, it has been found that the fees charged by Mad Sports are in line with other services around the Tweed Valley (with rates ranging from $18 to $30). When the School were running the after school care program, there was no profit to the school at all, which is how the fees were kept so incredibly low & the parents relying on the service were very spoilt.
The children currently attending OSHAP (with Mad Sports) appear to be having a lovely time participating in healthy outdoor activities & thoroughly enjoying themselves.